June 9-10, 2000

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive met on June 9 and 10 in St. John's. This edition of Executive Notes is designed to provide you with a summary of major decisions and discussions that occurred at this meeting. For further information on any of these issues please contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

Association Priorities

Provincial Executive members were provided with an updated copy of the Association's priorities for 1999-2000. This updated copy included all items actioned or completed to date for the priorities which include curriculum issues, collective bargaining preparations, classroom issues, and membership involvement. For a detailed report on each priority please contact any member of Provincial Executive. For further information contact Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Collective Bargaining

The Collective Bargaining Committee has completed its collection of submissions from teachers regarding their concerns, ideas and/or recommendations for a new set of opening proposals. Teachers are still, however, encouraged to have input into the process. A draft of opening proposals will be forwarded to Provincial Executive for review at the September meeting. Provincial Executive and Joint Council will meet in October to review the main priorities and objectives. For the upcoming round of negotiations the Association can serve notice of its desire to reopen as of November 1, 2000. For further information contact Fred Douglas, Chair, Collective Bargaining Committee, Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division, or Edward Hancock, Assistant Executive Director.

Ministerial Panel

Provincial Executive discussed the status of our response to the Ministerial Panel Report on the Delivery of Education in the Classroom. At the present time there has been no feedback from government about our response and no timelines have been put in place on how or when the Panel's recommendations will be actioned. Provincial Executive will put in place a procedure whereby the status of the recommendations are followed up and placed on the agenda at each Executive meeting. This will be actioned as soon as possible. The implementation commitee, on which the NLTA is represented, will meet again on June 13 and 14, 2000. For further information contact Fred Andrews, President.

Business from Standing Committees

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING COMMITTEE

The NLTA will forward to the Federation of Labour Committee studying the Workplace, Health, Safety and Compensation Commission recommendations that a cap of $45,500 be removed from WHSCC Act and that there be an increase in the benefit level of an applicant from 80 percent to 100 percent of the initial salary. For further information

contact Fred Douglas, Collective Bargaining Committee, or Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

- The NLTA will express to the Faculty of Education the Association's desire to have a Multi-Age/Multi-Grade teaching course as part of the required program for teacher education.
- The NLTA will request to the proper authorities within the Faculty of Education that the Tele-Learning and Rural school teaching program be reviewed to have 4907 –; Curriculum Connections in Multi-Grade/Multi-Age Classrooms and 4912 – ; Student Assessment in the Context of Rural Schools included as core courses, replacing 4902 –; Special Needs in the Context of Rural Schools and 4903 –; Leadership Perspectives in Rural Schools which could in turn become elective courses.
- NLTA policy BES 33 #7b will be modified to include Reading Recovery and Later Literacy as follows: "Teachers for speciality program areas such as Physical Education, Music, Core French, Reading Recovery and Later Literacy should be excluded from the normal pupil-teacher allocation ratio."
- Proposed changes to the Branch Restructuring Policy were adopted as presented.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, Chair, Membership Benefits and Services Committee, or Lloyd Hobbs, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Canadian Teachers' Federation
National Presidents and General Secretaries met in St. John's this past month. Issues from each province were discussed and cross-country updates were provided. For further information contact Fred Andrews, President or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Other Business

- Provincial Executive will meet on September 29-30, 2000 to receive and consider draft proposals from the Collective Bargaining Committee.
- The October meetings of Provincial Executive will be revised as follows:
  EXECUTIVE MEETING:
  –; Thursday, October 19, 2000
  JOINT COUNCIL:
  –; Friday, October 20, 2000 (full day and evening)
  –; Saturday, October 21, 2000 (8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
  EXECUTIVE MEETING:
  –; Saturday, October 21, 2000 (2:00 p.m. onward)
  The November meeting will be revised as follows:
  PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE:
  –; Friday and Saturday, November 24-25, 2000
  For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.
- Appointments to the Group Insurance Trustees for the year 2000-2001 are as follows: Cynthia Fizzard, Anita Noseworthy, Dana Burridge, Marilyn Cardwell, Art Winsor, one representative from the Retired Teachers Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Sean Noah, Chairperson.

For further information contact Fred Andrews, President.

Workload Study

The Association has expressed our concerns to the Department of Education and the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association re: delays in implementation of the Workload Study as referenced in Schedule P of the Collective Agreement. A draft "terms of reference" has been provided to all parties. A further meeting of the Workload Study Committee is planned and a final decision re: the study will be made at that time. For further information contact Wayne Lee, Chair, Workload Committee or Lloyd Hobbs, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Teacher Transfer and Seniority

The issue of teacher transfer and seniority was brought to the Executive for discussion. It will be discussed at the Collective Bargaining Committee and will be on the agenda for the August meeting of Provincial Executive.
For further information contact Fred Douglas, Chair of Collective Bargaining Committee or Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Labrador Teaching Conditions

The costs, conditions and issues facing teachers in Labrador were brought to the attention of Provincial Executive. There are very few incentives or benefits for keeping teachers in Labrador or in rural areas of the province. Teachers are viewed as itinerant because they do not usually stay in the small, rural communities. There is an expected teacher shortage for Labrador for the coming year. President Andrews has been vocal about this issue in the media in all of his recent interviews. This issue will be discussed at the meeting of the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Directors in Education scheduled for June 25-28 and a decision for action will be taken at that time. For further information contact Fred Andrews, President.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for August 23 and 24 in Port Blandford.
For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.